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Search is on for manager

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The town manager search is on.

Town officials and a committee of volunteers are gearing up to find Arlington's latest fearless leader.

A screening committee has been formed for the task. Members include Alan McClenen, Bill Carey, Steve Decourcey, Kelly Kelley and Jane Howard. Each member was hand-picked for the job by a selectman. Personnel Director Caryn Cove and Selectman Administrator Marie Krepelka will act as ex-officio members.

Selectman Chairman Kevin Greeley is the board's liaison for the town manager search. According to Greeley, much of the groundwork that was completed three years ago is still relevant to today's search.

"I think the information is still useful to a point but we are also adding what we have learned in the last three years," said Greeley. "I hope people feel confident that this is a very good process. A very thorough process."

Cove said many of the principles in the search were involved the last time around.

"I hate to see us go through

Salary range higher than last position

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Good people don't come cheap.

The Board of Selectmen approved the town manager position profile after requesting some minor changes. One thing that didn't change, however, was the salary range.

The profile lists the salary range at \$120,000 to \$140,000, depending on the applicant's qualifications. That's a jump from the \$114,000 former Town Manager Phillip Farrington was making in his last year.

Selectman Kathleen Dias said she was taken aback by the numbers. While the \$120,000 number was somewhat acceptable, the higher end was a little too high, she said.

"When you set the town manager salary at \$120,000 to \$140,000 it not only affects the town manager position, it puts pressure on the entire salary system. It's

■ SEE SALARY, PAGE 22



POND PARADE

Above: With the help of his tuba, Jonathan Wyner, left, leads the Friends of Spy Pond Parade, as Sylvia Kelly, right, and others follow donning "pond friendly" apparel. Right: Barry Pearlmuter, known as "The Beatles Guy," entertained the crowd at the parade Saturday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOLLY SCHMIDT



Reval expected to hike house value, lower tax rate

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Homeowners should expect a higher price tag on their homes after the Assessors Department completes a state-mandated home revaluation. They should also expect the tax rate to drop significantly.

The reval will be different than the one completed in 2000, when inspectors entered homes to double-check records. According to Town Assessor Bob Greeley, such in-home inspections are mandated once every 10 years. This year, the reval will be less invasive but will still help bring assessments closer to market value.

"What we are looking for is equity, consistency and fairness," said Greeley.

The white-hot housing market of the last three years means home values will jump quite a bit from the last reval, said Greeley. Initial data on the selling price of homes in town show a monster jump in value. Single-family home sales in 2000 averaged \$365,900. By 2002, those same kinds of homes were selling at an average of \$445,900. Two-family homes jumped from an average sales price of \$378,200 in 2000 to \$502,900 in 2002.

"After rent control ended in Cambridge around 1997, we have seen

'What we are looking for is equity, consistency and fairness.'

BOB GREELEY
TOWN ASSESSOR

almost double-digit increases in sale prices every year since then," said Greeley. "That's seven consecutive years of double-digit increases. Arlington's home values had been lower than the surrounding communities for years. We are the sleeping

giant in the area and the demand of people coming into the town has been phenomenal."

Looking at those average sale values, most homes in town are currently assessed at just over 70 percent of the fair market value, said Greeley. The state requires home valuations to be within 10 percent of the house's market rate.

"We have to assess to full and fair cash value — in essence, fair market value," said Greeley.

Steve McKenna of Bowes Realty said the market is finally showing signs of regaining a more traditional pace. In the last three years, it was not uncommon for houses to be sold

literally within hours of posting. Now, houses can stay on the market for close to a month.

"You are still seeing good offers but you are starting to see a more traditional market," said McKenna. "Both buyer and sellers are becoming more reasonable, although the right house in the right school district will always yield multiple bids."

Arlington is still selling at a higher rate than most of the state because of its location.

"Arlington is a desirable community. People are buying in Arlington because of its location, its convenience, the restaurants and the

■ SEE REVAL, PAGE 22

'Oliver' kept kids busy this summer

BY KRISTINE MCCAFFREY
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

While most kids spend their summer evenings playing baseball, running through sprinklers or watching television, The Arlington Children's Theatre (ACT) is rehearsing for its production of "Oliver." The show, which will be playing at the Regent Theatre Aug. 2-9, has ACT rehearsing weeknights and on Saturdays under the direction of Colleen Rua.

Auditions for the production were held in June and 103 children, ranging from the ages of 7-18, were picked to make up two separate casts which will perform four shows.

Emily Hamilton, 11, of Melrose was chosen to be one cast's "Oliver."

"It was the hardest week of my life waiting to see if I got

the part. I wasn't always sure I was going to get it," she confessed.

Hamilton, who has been acting since the second grade, explained how much fun she has been having this summer.

"ACT is a great theatre company and everyone is so nice here. There isn't a mean person in this play, which is why I am enjoying this so much. Some can be boisterous at times, but everyone has been really sweet," she said.

Rua, a theatre major in college, who has been directing for three years, was inspired to be a director during a senior directing class in college.

"I have been acting since I was 11," she explained, "and I was an actor with ACT when I was 14. I grew up, when away to college and now I am back directing."

Last year Rua was an assistant director for the ACT pro-



STAFF PHOTO BY HOLLY SCHMIDT
Anika Benkov, who is playing Oliver, rehearses for an upcoming production by the Arlington Children's Theater.

duction of "Patchwork Girl" and this past spring directed the play "Our Town."

Rua said that all of her

actors have been more than excited about the entire production.

■ SEE ACT, PAGE 21

Small fire burns laundry basket

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

A laundry basket and faulty electrical device touched off a small fire in a Robbins Road home on Thursday. Firefighters from the town's rescue unit contained the fire with extinguishers while engine and ladder companies raced to the scene.

According to Deputy Chief Wayne Springer, the homeowner was in her kitchen when she heard the smoke detector go off on the second floor.

"As she went up the stairs she found smoke in the hallway," said Springer. "She found a small fire in a rattan laundry basket."

After calling 911, the homeowner tried to use an extinguisher on the fire but it did not work.

The rescue ambulance was the first on the scene, and the two firefighters inside contained the fire with extinguishers while the engines and ladder approached. Firefighters then made it upstairs with the hoses as the fire started to gain strength again, said Springer.

"They advanced an attack line to the second floor and when they got up there the fire was just starting to lick the ceiling," said Springer.

Firefighters quickly brought the blaze down after that.

According to Springer, accelerant-sniffing dogs found no trace of chemicals at the fire origin. Early indications show that an electrical plug for the air conditioner may have started the fire, although it is not yet clear

■ SEE FIRE, PAGE 21



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Survivor

Arlington's Wendy Page is riding in this weekend's Pan-Mass Challenge.

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Tuesday, July 22

At 11:37 a.m., officers responded to a car accident with no injuries at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Winter Street.

At 3:16 p.m., officers responded to a bank robbery at Cambridge Savings Bank on Massachusetts Avenue.

Wednesday, July 23

At 6:06 p.m. a Lancaster

Road caller reported her credit card was stolen.

At 9:13 p.m., officers responded to reports of a vandalized car on Edgerton Road.

At 10:07 p.m., an Indian Hill Road reported an assault with a dangerous weapon.

Thursday, July 24

At 1:46 p.m., an Appleton Place caller reported a theft.

At 7:53 p.m., officers investigated reports of a suspicious person near Mill Street.

At 10:33 p.m., officers dispersed a group of youths in

Menotomy Rocks Park.

Friday, July 25

At 1:39 p.m., an Upland Road caller reported his credit card was stolen.

At 9:57 p.m., a Bow Street caller reported damage to his car.

At 11:23 p.m., an Appleton Street caller reported hearing a loud noise in the area.

Saturday, July 26

At 10:21 a.m., officers responded to a car accident with no injuries at the intersection of Lakehill Avenue

and Lake Street.

At 2:21 p.m., officers responded to a neighbor dispute on Alpine Street.

At 10:30 p.m., officers responded to reports of kids gathering at the Stratton School.

Sunday, July 27

At 12:03 a.m., a caller reported hearing a loud noise near Robbins Farm Park.

At 12:53 a.m. officers responded to a car accident with no injuries on Park Avenue Extension.

ARRESTS

Monday, July 21

At 9:51 a.m., police arrested Matthew Veno, 30, of 229 Tremont St., Melrose, on two default warrants.

Officer Richard Pedrini saw Veno along North Union Street. Realizing Veno had warrants out, Pedrini confirmed with dispatch and arrested Veno.

Tuesday, July 22

At 1:29 a.m., police arrested James L. Woodfall, 20, of 22 Tower Road, Arlington and charged him with illegal possession of a Class D controlled substance (marijuana) and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Officer Gina Bassett came across Woodfall and two other men on the bike path. After smelling the scent of

marijuana, Bassett asked to search Woodfall's bag. Inside she found two small bags of marijuana and a Chinese throwing star.

Thursday, July 24

At 10:12 p.m., police arrested William V. Hamizides, 43, of 72 Cleveland St., Arlington on a warrant and was charged with trespassing.

Officer David Brown spotted Hamizides in Waldo Park after dark. After informing Hamizides that no one was allowed in the park after dark, Hamizides left. Brown checked the name with dispatch and found Hamizides was wanted on a default warrant. He tracked Hamizides down on Marathon Street and arrested him.

FIRE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Fire Department log. The log is available to the public. There were three fires, 26 medical calls and 34 investigations from July 20 to 26.

Sunday, July 20

At 4:04 p.m., firefighters responded to a trash fire on Freemont Street. Upon arrival, firefighters found a couch and carpet on fire, effect her Lifeline system.

which was then extinguished.

At 9:18 p.m., firefighters responded to a smoke scare on Brattle Street. There was no emergency; The smoke came from someone cooking on a stove.

Tuesday, July 22

At 5:56 a.m., a Dixon Avenue resident called to report her power was out and she was concerned it would

Firefighters contacted Lifeline, who informed them the system has a battery life of 12 to 14 hours. The woman was advised to call an electrician.

Wednesday, July 23

At 11:09 p.m., firefighters responded to a propane tank fire on Falmouth Road. Firefighters found the tank on the street. It was extinguished without incident.

Thursday, July 24

At 5:47 p.m., firefighters

responded to a building fire on Robbins Road. An electrical problem caused the fire on the second floor of the home, which sustained minor damage.

Saturday, July 26

At 11:01 a.m., firefighters responded to a water leak at the Robbins Library. A toilet was stuck running. Firefighters turned off the water and advised staff to contact a plumber.

MEETINGS

Tuesday, Aug. 5

• Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

Thursday, Aug. 7

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

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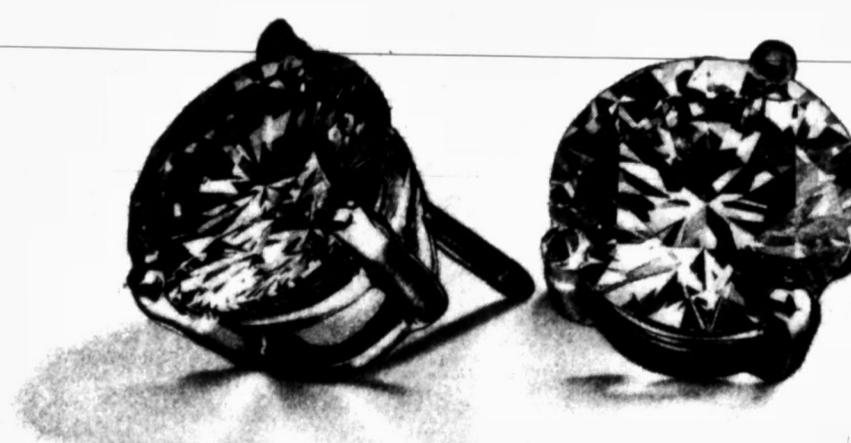
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COMMUNITY NEWSSTAND

Does public have too much power?

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Any group of citizens in Massachusetts can petition to add new laws, directives and constitutional amendments through direct ballot questions.

Those laws are then subject to the same treatment every law faces: It can be amended, strengthened, weakened or killed. Some advocacy groups, however, have asserted that such wrangling of ballot laws represents a disrespect for the voice of the voters and is anti-democratic.

Clean elections, which provided public funding for elections, was essentially gutted by the Legislature after a second, oddly-worded ballot question re-affirming support for the process was defeated. The English immersion law, which passed by nearly a 2-to-1 majority, has been changed in the Legislature. Lawmakers yearly consider whether to raise taxes in the face of the ballot-approved tax rollback and more recently the barely-failed effort to eliminate the income tax.

If voters demand a law be passed by voting in an election, why should legislators change or kill that law?

All three of Arlington's representatives gave the same answer: Because it's their job

to craft the best laws possible for the town and for the state.

"There is nothing sacrosanct about any law in the commonwealth, be it enacted by lawmakers or voters," said Rep. Jim Marzilli, D-Arlington. "I have a higher level of respect for a law created by voters through the ballot process, but both kinds of laws can and frequently do contain flaws and we should not pay blind obedience to either."

Marzilli said making sure laws work is essential to good governance.

"Laws are tools created by legislators and voters to make our society run better and if legislators or voters make mistakes in these laws, they should be looked at and fixed," said Marzilli.

Rep. Anne Paulsen, D-Belmont, said voters themselves would like to amend some ballot questions but are not afforded that luxury.

"People who vote can't say 'Yes, but,'" said Paulsen. "They're given a question and they vote it, but they can't make any changes to it."

There's also a difference between changing a law to make it work and killing it outright, said the representatives. The English immersion law was tweaked to allow for bilingual education for English and non-English speaking youngsters while older stu-

dents may need both languages to help learn the language better, said Rep. Jay Kaufman, D-Lexington.

"Expecting a non-English speaking junior to come in at that age and have a proficiency for a physics course stretches the imagination," said Kaufman. All three representatives noted that immersion law architect Robert Unz did not oppose the changes made to the law.

"The reason people feel we overturned the ballot question is because that's what the media and the governor decided to put out," said Paulsen.

The Clean Elections Law, meanwhile, was eviscerated by the Legislature. That, said Paulsen, was not in spirit with the ballot initiative process.

"There's a difference there" between what happened with immersion and clean elections, said Paulsen. "The hope with clean elections was it would be somewhat modified to make it work better. The opposite happened on that particular item."

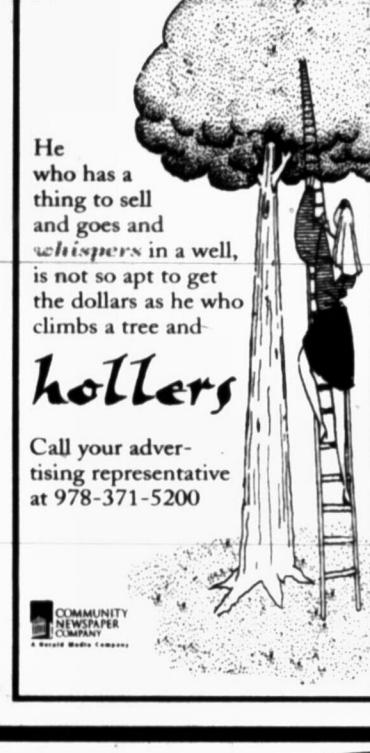
"I was a big supporter of clean elections, but I would be the first to admit it needed some amending," said Kaufman. Instead of fixing flaws, however, the law was scuttled.

Sen. Robert Havern, D-Arlington, could not be reached for comment.

Klezmer band to perform

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce will present di bostoner klezmer as part of its Arlington at Night Summer Concert Series tonight, July 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Jefferson Cutter-House lawn, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street. Next week, Aug. 7, the chamber will bring Chris and Meredith Thompson, an acoustic duo, featuring flute, guitar, percussion and beautiful harmonies, to the free event.

Arlington resident Dena Ressler on clarinet, will be joined by Brian Bender on trombone and Terry Traub on accordian to play a range of klezmer music that will appeal to everyone.



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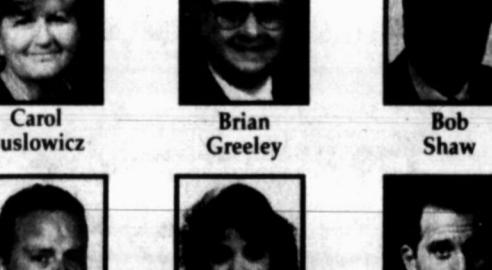
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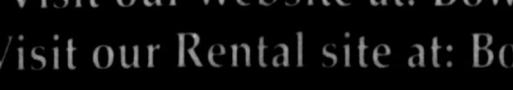
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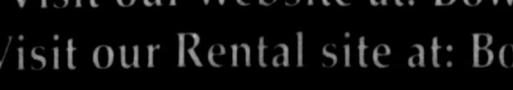
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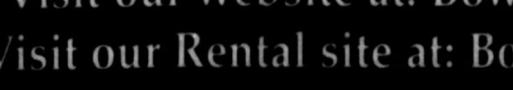
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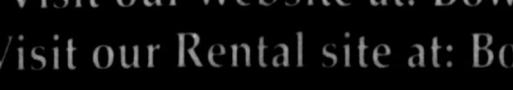
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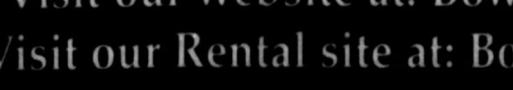
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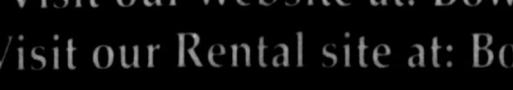
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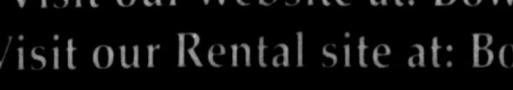
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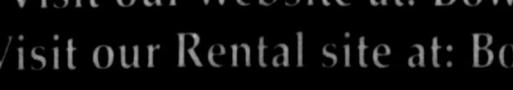
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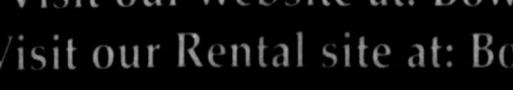
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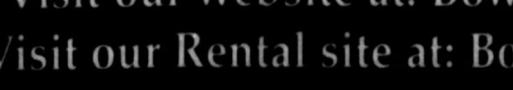
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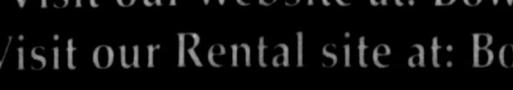
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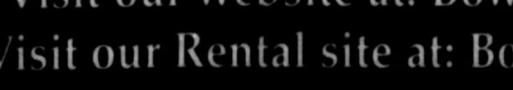
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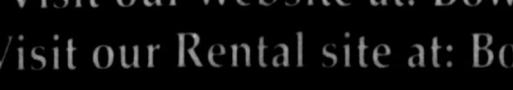
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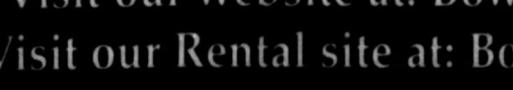
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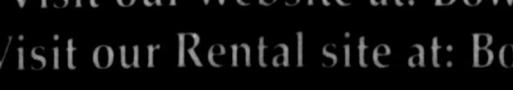
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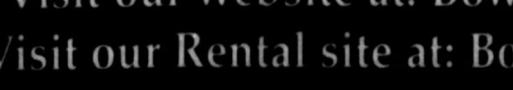
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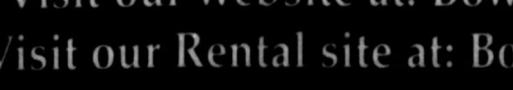
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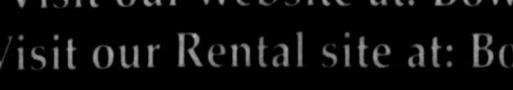
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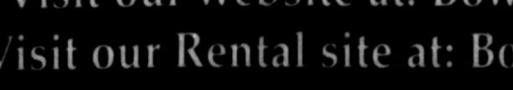
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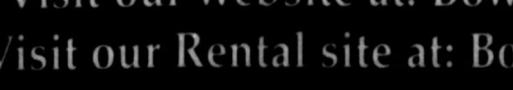
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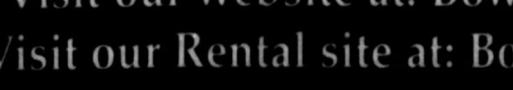
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Arlington

Street lights changing

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Bright lights, big town. The streets of Arlington are due for some major changes this fall, as the town prepares to replace all of the streetlights in Arlington. Doomed are the cobra-head mercury vapor lights that dominate the nights. In their places come high-pressure sodium lamps with shielded casings.

While the costs come up front, the town expects the change to pay for itself through lower utility bills within a year-and-a-half, according to a memorandum released by acting Town Manager Nancy Galkowski.

At the Monday Board of Selectmen meeting, Galkowski said using the 50-watt sodium lamps will provide more light at a cheaper rate for the town. The new casings will keep the light directed down at the street, which will help reduce glare and light pollution of the night sky.

"This is an extremely important project we are undertaking and it effects every citizen in town," said Galkowski.

The move to sodium is endorsed by Sustainable Arlington, an organization dedicated to helping the town become more environmentally friendly and efficient.

State Rep. Jim Marzilli, D-Arlington, is pleased with the development. Marzilli has for years advocated dark sky legislation, which would have cities and towns replace their light fixtures with similar, more economic and environmentally-friendlier fixtures.

"The legislation was added to the budget on the house side but a light company fought it and had it defeated in the Senate," said Marzilli. "By putting the light into a fixture, you are directing the light down where you need it to go and you end up needing a lower wattage."

The move makes economic sense, but some towns and companies do not want to spend the up-front cash to reap the savings, said Marzilli. The current fixtures lose light that beams out beside the fixture, lighting nothing

and creating glare.

"Light is like salt. More is not always better," said Marzilli. Flood lights beside buildings, for example, are not always more effective than a directed light at a door or wall. "People think that adding more light makes things safer, but the glare can actually prevent you from seeing that guy in the bushes."

That glare makes changing the fixtures a safety issue, according to Marzilli. Glare from street lights can wash windshields in white, limiting visibility.

Sample lights are still up along Grey Street between Pleasant and Mount Vernon streets, and along Oak Hill Drive. The sodium lamps presented use various levels of wattage. Brighter lights will be used at larger intersections and at high-traffic locations.

Selectmen were generally supportive of the measure, although some concerns were expressed about the brightness at night.

"This is a bedroom community," said Selectman Charles Lyons. "Some of these lights are very bright for neighborhoods."

Selectman Kathy Dias, along with the other selectmen, asked for updates of public feedback as the new lights were installed.

"We need more feedback as we go along," said Dias.

Concert on the Green today

The third of the Robbins Library Concert Series on the Green will bring Guy Mendilow for a performance from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31 on the Robbins Library Green, 700 Massachusetts Ave.

Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and join

Mendilow for an outdoor evening of world-folk with Adam Bahrami on Brazilian seven-string guitar and percussion and special guests Karuna, jazz a cappella created to give the Boston a cappella community a taste of super-tight-harmony gospel jazz music. Karuna is comprised of members Huy Hoang, Monika Heidemann, Tanya Frank, Guy Mendilow, and Meredith Klein.

The Guy Mendilow Band's performance ranges from Mendilow originals, including playful nonsense music, the dark, pulsing rhythms of the berimbau, folk ballads, bossa beats and music for virtuoso overtone singing to Mendilow's arrangements, such as a version of Ladysmith Black Mambazo's "Rain, Rain Beautiful Rain," reminiscent of Paul Simon.

Featuring four voices, guitars, bass, cello, berimbau and drums, the Guy Mendilow

Band draws from Brazilian and Israeli to Hindustani, folk, jazz and blues, in vibrant musical storytelling awash with warm harmonies, captivating rhythms, and rollicking, fast-paced vocal improvisations.

A multi-national composer, vocalist, overtone singer and multi-instrumentalist, Mendilow's work is a refined

integration of technical and compositional styles from several cultures. He is a citizen of Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States, has lived in numerous nations including South Africa, Israel, Mexico and Brazil, and speaks and performs in several languages.

All programs are free and open to the public. The pro-

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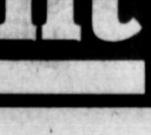
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Soldier reassures Peirce students

Peirce School second-graders got a firsthand glimpse at the life of a U.S. soldier serving in the Iraqi war this spring through an ongoing correspondence with Major John D. Deck. Major Deck is stationed in Kuwait as part of the U.S. Army's military intelligence operation.

Major Deck responded to letters sent by Fran Bowler's second-grade class. "Thank you for your terrific letters," Major Deck wrote, "what a caring message."

Major Deck wrote to Peirce students that the most difficult thing about being stationed in Kuwait "is being away from my family. You must all know that I love them and miss them very much."

Major Deck also made sure to include specific notes for each student in Mrs. Bowler's class. His notes included letting Nina and Loralee know that their involvement with Girl Scouts was important because "helping others is a good thing to do."

In response to Brandon, Suzy, Kas-

I promise I'll do my best to protect America if you promise me that you'll be good and do your homework.'

MAJOR JOHN D. DECK

sandra and Kathryn, who expressed concerns about their safety, Major Deck told them, "I'm glad you feel safe. You sleep tight. I promise I'll do my best to protect America if you promise me that you'll be good and do your homework."

He also let many students know that he appreciated getting letters to share with fellow soldiers. As he told Lara, "Writing to soldiers is a patriotic thing to do." Yaritz was told, "I bet your parents are proud of you for being so kind."

Many students asked Major Deck specific questions about the status of

the U.S. military operations in Iraq. "Yes, we beat Iraq's army," he told Luke. And to Douglas, he wrote, "We worked really hard to find all the weapons we could. Finding weapons was one of our jobs, and we found a lot, and now no one will get hurt by them." He also expressed concern about how the Iraqi's will fare, telling Daniel and Kimberly, "I hope the Iraqis are happier now that they are free. I hope they are smart and use their freedoms wisely."

To Shannon, Abishek, Alyssa, Griffin and Lillian, who expressed concern about Major Deck's need to be overseas, he told them he understood he had to serve far away, but was eager to come home. "You are right," he told Shannon, "It is very difficult to leave your family and go away. It is even harder when you are going to war and don't know when you might come home again."

But he was looking forward to that return, telling Griffin, "I hope I come home soon, too. I want to go on vacation when I do!"

Minuteman hosts arts

A rock-jazz concert, Performing Arts Workshop show, and a photography and digital video presentation will be the featured attractions at the annual Minuteman Regional Summer School Arts Festival on Friday, Aug. 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the school. The festival will also include arts and crafts exhibits by students.

The rock-jazz group will be led by Paul Ahlstrand and the Performing Arts Workshop show will be under the direction of Susan Yoniak. The digital video

presentation is produced by the students of Bruce Girouard and the Photography Production by the students of Frank Dalgan.

Admission to the Arts Festival is free, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Minuteman's Summer School Office at 781-861-7150, or visit www.minuteman.org. Minuteman Regional High School is located in Lexington at the intersection of Route 2A and Massachusetts Avenue, just west of Route 128.

Head Start has openings for September programs

Communities United, Inc. is accepting applications for September enrollment in its Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

Head Start offers a preschool program to low income families, which runs from late September to early June. There is no charge for the program, which operates Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The center-based Early Head Start programs for low income families, in Watertown, Brookline and Newton,

are full day, full year programs for children ages 12 months to 2.9 years. There is no charge for Early Head Start. Breakfast and lunch are provided and transportation is available to families who cannot self-transport.

Early Head Start and Head Start are total learning experiences, which promote social, emotional, physical and educational growth. Children with special needs are welcome.

Low income families living or working in Arlington who

have 3- or 4-year-old children are encouraged to apply for Head Start. More than 270 families are currently involved.

Communities United also has full day child care programs on a sliding fee scale for families of low to moderate income living or working in Arlington. Communities United Inc. also offers a unique program serving pregnant women and homeless children, on site, at family shelters in Waltham and Newton.

Anyone interested in obtaining an application or information about Head Start should call 781-736-7890 or write to Communities United, Inc., 135 Beaver St., Waltham, MA 02452. Contact Kathy Young, ext. 31, or Eileen Schwaim, ext. 26, in the enrollment office.

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Camps will be held in Arlington. Camps run for five consecutive days for the weeks of August 11-15. Ages 5-7 attend from 9 am to noon. Ages 8-10 attend from 1-4 pm. Cost \$95/child. Reduced fees for second or third child in the same family.

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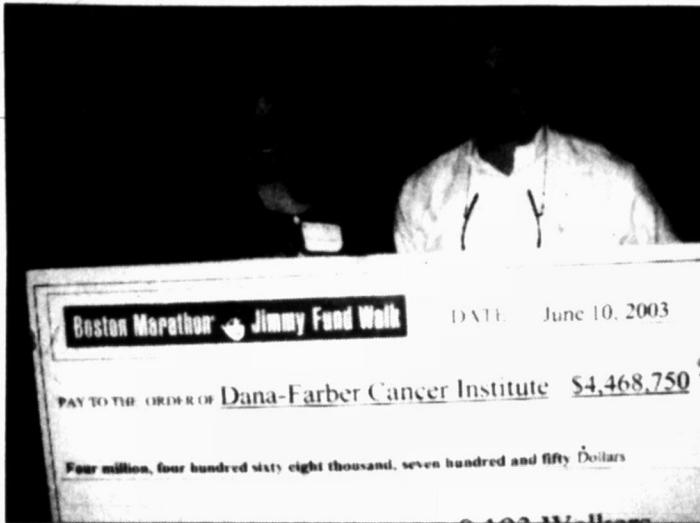
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ALL ABOUT ARLINGTONIANS

MCLAUGHLINS HONORED



Patty and John McLaughlin of Arlington were among the 1,366 people recognized for their extraordinary results in collecting pledges for the 2002 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk at the annual Pacesetter reception. Membership in the Pacesetter Club is reserved for those walkers who generate \$750 or more in pledges.

Stotik installed as new Elks leader

As members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks from across the nation gathered in St. Louis from July 6 to 10, for the Order's 139th Grand Lodge Convention, Walter N. Stotik Jr. of Arlington Elks Lodge 1435, was installed as the new leader of the Metropolitan West District of the Massachusetts Elks Association, voted on key issues facing the Order, and elected its new national leaders.

In addition to helping set the course of the BPO Elks in the coming year, Stotik also learned of the Order's many nation-

al accomplishments. Last year, the 1.12 million members of the Elks made charitable contributions totaling more than \$200 million (cash and in-kind), which went to support scholarships and educational grants; drug awareness and education programs; aid to the nation's veterans; youth athletics; and the Elks state associations' major projects, which provide funding for everything from cancer treatment and research to shelters for the victims of domestic violence.

As the Elks national representative for the area, Stotik will now be responsible

for working with local Elks Lodges to fulfill the Order's longstanding commitment to promote charity and patriotism in their communities.

In the position of District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Stotik will play a vital role in the workings of the BPO Elks, with duties including the advising of Lodges on important internal and business matters, reviewing how national policy is implemented by the Lodges in the district, and assisting in the coordination and supervision of Elks' activities on many levels.

ON CAMPUS

Assumption College

The following Arlington students recently graduated from Assumption College: **Jennifer Bradbury Drake**, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Richard Drake; and **Victor Costa Martins** and **Jill Meredith Vasi**, daughter of Mrs. Joyce Bailey-Vasi.

Bates College

Sarah M. Baldwin, **Jessica A. Edgerly** and **Olivia S. Zurek** were named to the dean's list at Bates College as a result of their scholastic standing during the second semester of the 2002-03 academic year.

Baldwin, a sophomore biology major, is a member of the swim team. A 2001 graduate of Arlington High School, Baldwin is the daughter of Ted and Betsy Baldwin.

Edgerly, a first-year student, is a 2002 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School and the daughter of Brad and Jean Edgerly.

Zurek, a sophomore neuroscience major, is a member of the women's basketball and volleyball teams. A 2001 graduate of Arlington High School, she is the daughter of Patrick Zurek and Charlotte Reed.

Also at Bates, **Jessica A. Edgerly** of Arlington, recently participated in the 2003 Mount David Summit: A Celebration of Student Academic Achievement, the second annual campus-wide exposition of student academic work at Bates College.

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the summit was designed to celebrate the strong intellectual life at Bates. More than 100 students working in 22 disciplines with 40 professors and assistants in instruction, presented poster displays, panel talks, artistic and musical performances and multimedia offerings at Pettengill Hall and

other campus locations.

Approximately half of the presenters were seniors sharing results from their thesis work, with the remainder first-years, sophomores and juniors presenting results from course work and collaborations with professors.

Edgerly's presentation was divided into two parts. The first half explained events organized to raise awareness and funds for hunger prevention programs; the second half focused on efforts regarding homelessness issues.

Edgerly, a first-year student, is the daughter of Brad and Jean Edgerly. A dean's list student, she is a 2002 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School.

Boston University Academy

Boston University Academy named the following Arlington residents to the honor roll: headmaster list with high honors — **Gen Andrew Izutsu**; **Alan M. Bifolck**; **Samuel J. Oram** and **Dygo Leo Tosa**; headmasters list with honors — **Thomas Gottheil**; **Robert Phillip Atlas** and **Natan Magid**.

Boston University

The following Arlington residents received graduated from Boston University:

Sara K. Ameduri, juris doctorate in law; **Christina N. Caramanis**, bachelor's of arts in philosophy, cum laude; **Adam M. Castiglioni**, bachelor's of science in communication; **Stacy Chandler**, MSW in social work; **John F. Correia**, MBA in business administration and management; **Alice M. Curley**, BFA in theater studies; **Jonathan S. DeMille**, bachelor's of arts in international relations, cum laude; **Clement K. Hsieh**, MBA in business administration and management, honors; **Rong Huang**, MBA in business administration and management; **Camille R. Jones**, MA in mathematics; **Ban Keng Lau**, master's in computer science; **Tammy M. Lee**, bachelor of arts in economics, magna cum laude.

The following Arlington residents were recently named to the university's dean's list for the spring semester: **Kendra L. Borglum**, **Meaghan E. Gray**, **Kimberly Richard**, and **Mingxi Yang**.

The Carroll School

Olivia Belofsky, daughter of Richard Belofsky and Mary Beth Giffune of Arlington, and **Ryan Doherty**, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Doherty of Arlington, and **Zoe Norcross**, daughter of Judith Berman and Frederick Norcross of Arlington recently graduated from The Carroll School in Lincoln.

Belofsky will attend the Ottoson Middle School in the fall.

Doherty received the head's award given to the student demonstrating the importance of education and the uniqueness encompassed in

learning with commitment and dedication to success, growth and achievement. In addition, he was the recipient of the Lincoln Historical Society's History Award. He will attend Minuteman Regional High School in the fall.

Norcross was the recipient of the head's award given to the student demonstrating the importance of education and the uniqueness encompassed in learning with commitment and dedication to success, growth and achievement. She will attend Arlington Public Schools in the fall.

Clark University

John Hennessey of Arlington was recently granted a certificate of advanced graduate study from Clark University.

Nooshin Valizadeh, also of Arlington, graduated with a bachelor's of arts in communication and culture from the university. Valizadeh also was named to second honors on the Clark University dean's list for the spring semester.

Curry College

Joseph O'Connor of Arlington recently earned a bachelor's of arts in criminal justice from Curry College.

Kathleen M. Messuri, also of Arlington, has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

Dean College

Kelly Browne of Arlington recently received the associate in arts degree in dance from Dean College.

Framingham State College

The following Framingham State College students from Arlington were named to the dean's list and the president's list for the spring semester: dean's list — **Jennifer A. Bailey**, majoring in history; **Diana M. Galluzzo**, majoring in psychology; **Elisabeth B. Sieberg**, majoring in English; **Maria L. DeFabritiis**, an undeclared major; and president's list **Diana M. Galluzzo**, majoring in psychology.

Geneva College

The following Arlington residents have been named to

SEE CAMPUS, PAGE 9

Students win prizes for Italian contests

The Arlington High School Modern and Classical languages Department recently announced the following students distinguished themselves on the 2003 American Association Teachers of Italian National contest exam.

James Tirone placed second in the nation for Italian 1, Serena Steele placed first in the nation for Italian 3 and Elena DiCenso won an honorable mention certificate for Italian 4. James and Serena were awarded monetary prizes. Serena Steele has won

national honor for three consecutive years.

In addition, Sara Olejarsz was granted a scholarship from the Massachusetts Italian Teachers Association. Elena DiCenso, Katherine MacKenzie and Sara Olejarsz received senior book prizes for excellence.

The following students received certificates of excellence from the AHS Languages Department: Italian 1-Jan Provenzano, Italian 2-Christopher Magni and Ellen Morello, and Italian 3-Katie Taglieri and David Tassone.

NEWSMAKERS

• **Steve Durkin**, a 2002 Arlington Catholic High School graduate, has achieved the rank of private first class in the U.S. Army. He is attending the University of Dallas and has earned honor roll status for the spring semester.

Durkin and his wife, Johanna Wolfe, also a 2002 ACHS graduate, have an infant son, Nathaniel Robert.

• The Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Science Educators recently inducted **Donald Bockler** into its hall. Bockler teaches at Arlington High School.

• The RDW Group recently named **James Franz** as technical director 1 interactive services.

In this new position, Franz, an Arlington resident, will be responsible for overall technical design and implementation of all Web projects for the agency.

Prior to joining the agency, Franz held the same position for two years at Benes Brand Imaging, Lexington. He was a senior developer for three years at Mindseye Technology in Boston.

• Arlington resident **Richard A. Escalliere** recently joined the growing staff of Executive Auto Glass in Stoneham as an auto glass technician.

Executive Auto Glass is based in Stoneham and has seven service centers in Greater Boston.

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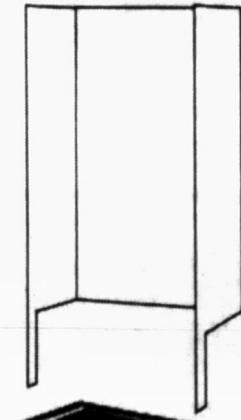
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CAMPUS, FROM PAGE 8
the dean's list for the spring semester at Geneva College: Adrian T. Wright, son of Christopher and Carol Wright, a junior majoring in engineering and a graduate of Lexington Christian School, and Maureen R. Wright, daughter of Christopher and Carol Wright, a graduating senior majoring in English and a graduate of Arlington High School.

Maureen Wright graduated from Geneva on May 17, earning a bachelor's degree in English.

Johnson & Wales University

The following students from Arlington were named to the dean's list at Johnson & Wales University for the spring term ending in May: Kristyn Gold is majoring in food service management and David Goshgarian is majoring in culinary arts.

Keene State College

Serena R. Pyle of Arlington has been named to the spring semester dean's list at Keene State College.

Lesley University

Patricia M. Buckley of Arlington, daughter of Patricia and James Buckley, was awarded the degree of master's of education in early childhood and moderate special needs.

Buckley is employed as a special needs teacher assistant at Bishop Elementary School.

Lexington Christian Academy

Lexington Christian Academy has announced the honor roll for the 2002-2003 school year.

Students from Arlington who have earned high honors include Elena Lombard, Katherine Tanner-Bercaw, Pierre Tong and Emma Wilson.

Students earning honors include Janice Blemur, Tegan Cody, John Consilvio, Peter Gallagher, Jason Mills, Jamie Russell, Natasha Utter, Brian Wright and Violet Wright.

Massachusetts College of Art

The following Arlington residents recently graduated from Massachusetts College of Art: Jesse B. Dee, Sarah Tilghman Doremus, Kim Paradiso, Jennifer M. Telles and Constantia de Massot Thibaut.

Minuteman Regional High School

Brittany Eckhardt, a student at Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, recently participated in Boston University's 13th Design

Competition, a vehicle-design competition sponsored by the University's College of Engineering. More than 200 high school students from throughout the northeast competed for partial scholarships to Boston University.

Participants in the Design Competition built a small, self-powered vehicle that rolled across a track carrying a hocky sack, dropped the hocky sack into a six-inch-by-six-inch hole and returned down the track, passing the original starting line in less than 15 seconds.

The Design Competition consisted of four runs, a semi-final round, and a grand finale. First place winners were eligible for a \$5,000 per year tuition scholarship to Boston University and second place winners were eligible for a \$2,500 per year tuition scholarship.

Eckhardt is the daughter of Richard and Denise Eckhardt of Arlington.

Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

Arlington resident Michelle Martini recently graduated from Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart.

Martini, senior class vice president, was the ads editor of the yearbook and was involved in varsity soccer, varsity golf and gospel choir. The daughter of Peter and Kathy Martini, she will matriculate at Loyola Marymount University.

Noble and Greenough School

Michael Richard Chin, sophomore from Arlington, has achieved academic honors for his second semester grades at Noble and Greenough School.

Northeastern University

The following Arlington residents recently earned degrees from Northeastern University: Sasha Abby, Ashod Balanian, Stephanie Brodeur, John Diangelis, Gregory R. Doughty, Patrick Fox, Carmela C. Giannone, Nathan Goshgarian, Qunhui Gu, Linnea Linton, Georgia Litsas, Jennifer Marzec, Sybil Merselburgh, Elizabeth Nichols, Tiffany E. Olson, Rudra Pandey, Sean Riley, Elizabeth Robison, Joy Roma, Craig Spitzkoff, Beata Tarokh and Qin Yao.

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by Robert Bowes, CRB, CRS
BREAKING THE RULES

One rule of thumb encourages buyers to tender first offers that are 5% below the asking price. The fact is, however, that a variety of factors influence asking price and, if the five-percent rule is applied indiscriminately, potential buyers risk disappointment. In most cases, the local market condition most influences sellers. While buyers may be successful with an offer that is 5% below the asking price in a buyer's market, their offers are not likely to even be considered in a hot market. A low offer is also self-defeating when a true bargain appears. Too many buyers who mistakenly believe that true value comes from the difference between the asking price and what they pay miss out on great opportunities.

As happens occasionally, you may submit an offer to find the seller neither accepts nor rejects the offer but comes back with a counteroffer. When this occurs, your real estate professional can often help the parties negotiate and find a compromise that will make everyone happy. If you are considering buying a home or listing one for sale, call BOWES/PENNELL & THOMPSON GMAC REAL ESTATE at (781) 648-3500. We are located at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington.

HINT: Buyers should recognize that some sellers purposely price their homes for fast sales due to extenuating circumstances in their lives.



Brittany Eckhardt

ON CAMPUS

Regis College

Laura Brooks of Arlington was recently presented with the Crimson and Gold Tassel Award at Regis College.

Brooks, a graduate of Arlington High School, is a senior majoring in chemistry.

She has also been selected by Regis College as one of the country's most outstanding campus leaders by Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

A campus nomination committee and editors of this publication have included the name of Brooks in the 2002 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, an annual directory of outstanding students first published in 1934. This honor is awarded to students who display outstanding achievements, not only in scholarly endeavors but also participate and exercise leadership in extracurricular activities.

Also at Regis, the following Arlington residents were among 320 candidates who received degrees during the 73rd Regis College commencement ceremonies recently:

Laura Brooks, Maura Harrington, Paul Jorgensen; Karyn Kenney and Kimberly Tierney.

The following Arlingtonians have been inducted into the National Honor Society: Evan M. Rufo who is now in the Alpha Lambda Delta, Regis College Chapter, National Honor Society for First Year Students; and Einstein M. Thomas, who is now in the Beta Beta Beta, Upsilon Omega Chapter, National Biological Honor Society.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Julie M. Vallarelli of Arlington was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Vallarelli is a sophomore majoring in communication and management.

The Rivers School

Arlington resident Morganne A. Kraines, an eighth-grader at Rivers, was honored with an award at Prize Day at The Rivers School in Weston on June 12.

Kraines was presented with The Middle School Citizenship Award for the eighth grade. This award is given annually to those students who in the opinion of the faculty, have set an example for their peers through their high moral character, hard work and spirit in the Rivers community.

Also at The Rivers School, the following students were named to the honor roll: Morganne A. Kraines, Grade 8, high honors; Brook D. Barron, Grade 10, honors, and Emma E. Menz, Grade 10, honors.

Roger Williams University

Arlington residents William Copithorne and Diana Jeffrey were recently named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Roger Williams University.

Also at Roger Williams, James J. Berlinghieri of Arlington recently graduated with a bachelor's of science from the Gabelli School of Business.

Saint Anselm College

Melanie L. Luente of Arlington recently graduated with a degree in natural sciences from Saint Anselm College.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard J. Luente.

Saint Clement Junior/Senior High School

The following students from Arlington have made honor roll status at Saint Clement Junior/Senior High School for the third marking period: Rose Ridge, Grade 11, first honors; Jennifer A. Nigro, Grade 12, second honors; Lauren Alicandro, Grade 7, second honors; and John W. Whittle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Whittle.

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The following Arlington students were named to the dean's list at Salem State College for the spring 2003 academic semester:

Lora Adomeit, Rita Bottoni, Brian Fennelly, Elizabeth Glenn, Vanessa Maniacotti, Kimberly McDonald, Faith Morgan, Melissa O'Leary, Danielle O'Rourke, Angela Tassone and Kelly Walsh.

Simmons College

The following Arlington residents were named to the spring semester dean's list at Simmons College: Beth Rubinstein, a sophomore with an undeclared major, and

Julia Young, a sophomore with an undeclared major.

Suffolk University

John G. Masci of Arlington recently received the degree of Juris Doctor, Magna Cum Laude from Suffolk University Law School.

Syracuse University

Kelly Allen, Naomi Funkhouser, Seth Kangle, Kathryn Tammoush and Anne Aumueller, all of Arlington, were named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Syracuse University.

Allen is a senior majoring in advertising design. Funkhouser is a senior majoring in magazine journalism.

The Rivers School

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University of Massachusetts at Boston

The following Arlington

Kangle is a junior majoring in fine arts. Tammoush is a junior majoring in psychology. Aumueller is a senior majoring in psychology.

Tilton School

Miranda Wooster-Tierney of Arlington reached the highest level of scholarship, effort and commitment to citizenship within the community during the second semester and has been named a John F. MacMoran Scholar.

Wooster-Tierney was also named to high honor roll.

Trinity College

The following Arlington residents recently graduated from Trinity College: Melissa D. Leone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leone; Emmie R. Stamell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stamell; and John W. Whittle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Whittle.

Tufts University

The following Arlington students were named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Tufts University: Perrin LaPlante, Meaghan Mackesy, Diana Nemirovsky, Armen Nersessian, Laura Paskind, Tracey Samko and Ryan Snyder.

Also at Tufts, Julia E. Manoli, a student at Arlington High School, received a Tufts University Merit Scholarship.

University of Hartford

Britt Erler and Lauren Feinberg, both of Arlington, have been named to the dean's list for the spring semester at the University of Hartford.

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Alexis Mary D'Olimpio, daughter of Alyce and Peter D'Olimpio of Arlington, recently graduated summa cum laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a degree in psychology. In August, she will begin the one year master's degree in education program at Amherst.

Also, at UMass-Amherst, the following Arlington residents were named to the dean's list for the spring semester: Deborah M. Braga; John J. Burke; Michael D. Driscoll; Maia Howard; Ann E. Kinchla; Caroline P. Larson; Alexander S. Laytin; Sean P. McKenna; Kathryn R. McNamara; Kristen M. Nolan; Guia T. Reyes; Carolyn J. Ryan; Megan C. Sheridan; Jill K. Weinstein; and Berkley A. Wilson.

University of Massachusetts at Boston

The following Arlington

residents received degrees at UMass Boston's 35th Commencement Exercises: bachelor's degrees — Akemi Yama- da, Arshia Amena, Christian J. Haddad, Christine Russell, Daniel R. Ferguson- Maltzman, David L. Gilligan, Elizabeth A. Scott, Elizabeth Paulk, Hanh T. Nguyen, Jeffrey Scott Lev- etin, John S. Marsetta, Karl V. Magnussen, Kimberly Ann Muise, Konstantina Halas, Kristen M. Locke, Lisa J. Berry, Nurys Diaz- Martinez, Owais Najeebuddin Mohammed, Patricia M. Murphy, Patrick M. Johnson, Rita Kaderian, Sarah H. Maitland, Steven F. Silipigni and Yelena M. Filippova; graduate degrees — Christina Elvira Mauro, Doris A. Mainville, Jeffrey S. Lev- etin, Jennifer A. Nigro, Shauna M. Lo, and Tanya Marie Anderson.

University of Massachusetts at Lowell

Arlington resident Sanjita Aryal, who recently graduated from UMass-Lowell with a bachelor's degree in computer science, was honored with the Outstanding Departmental Service Award during the 2003 commencement ceremony at UMass-Lowell.

University of Rhode Island

Arlington resident Kevin P. Loughman recently received his degree during the commencement exercises at the University of Rhode Island.

University of Vermont

Rebecca H. Maciel of Arlington has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester at the University of Vermont.

Maciel is a senior animal sciences major in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Wentworth Institute of Technology

Sean Matthew Kelly of Arlington recently graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He received his associate's degree in computer science.

Wheaton College

The following Arlington residents have earned a place on the spring dean's list at Wheaton College: Jessica Arrendol, a member of the Class of 2005, child of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Lugo and a graduate of Arlington High School; Molly Preston, a member of Class of 2005, child of Mr. & Mrs. Alan Lee Preston and a graduate of Waldorf School; and Julia Whittredge, a member of the Class of 2005, child of Mr. & Mrs. David A. Whittredge and a graduate of Cambridge School of Weston.

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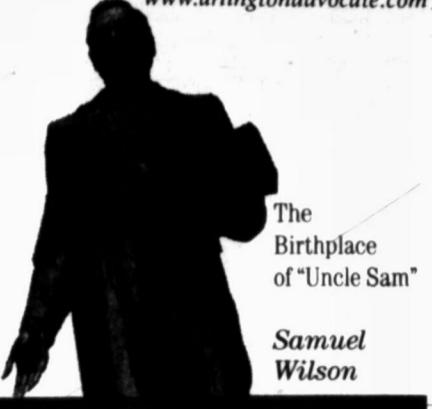
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Comment



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"
Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

Sept. 11 report released

Last week the House and Senate Intelligence Committees released the findings from their joint task force studying the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Most of the report is on the Web at <http://datacenter.ap.org/wdc/911report.pdf>.

Sifting through the 858 pages is not an easy task, even for the curious, educated or well informed. But there are a number of interesting disclosures, with even more questions waiting to be answered.

To start, Saddam Hussein is never mentioned in the report, and no link is provided between the former Iraqi dictator and any of the hijackers or the events of Sept. 11. The best suspicion of Iraqi involvement was that CIA believed hijacker Muhammad Atta may have met an Iraqi intelligence official in April 2001, although it was "still working to corroborate this."

This confirmation of non-involvement raises even more questions about President George Bush's justification for the invasion of Iraq.

However, the most shocking revelation from the report is that the intelligence community had numerous leads but "none of it identified the time, place, or specific nature of the attacks."

One glaring omission from the report is accountability from those who are in charge of protecting American citizens.

For example, two of the airplanes were hijacked between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 11 and quickly deviated from their intended flight plans. The Federal Aviation Administration knew about the problem before the planes were flown into the World Trade Center, yet refused to contact any federal agency, including NORAD, the North American Air Defense Command, the agency in charge of protecting American airspace. Over an hour later, fighter jets were scrambled from Otis Air Force Base but it was too late to stop the attacks. Nothing in the report analyzes this lapse of security or provides solutions for fixing the problem in the future.

The Sept. 11 attacks were a shocking event; it shook our nation to the core. But the failure of our government to be prepared for these attacks is both astounding and chilling especially after considering the trillions of dollars spent on intelligence and the military.

These breakdowns — and the Bush Administration's lack of openness regarding the report — confirm the worst fears Americans have about their safety and their government.

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space in our homes to exercise our dogs. This area will help build a sense of community by designating a place where dog owners and others can come together socially. We hope to use the park for educational programs, such as dog training and seminars as well.

I am a member of the Friends of the Canine Companions of Arlington, a group that formed last year with the purpose of creating a controlled "off leash" recreation area, allowing dogs, their owners and other visitors to share the parks in an environment which is safe, clean and enjoyable for all.

We are very concerned about the possible elimination of the dog exercise area from McClellan Field. Many people see this as a frivolous project, feeling that setting aside public space for dogs is not and should not be a town priority. I don't disagree.

However, this issue is not just about dogs. An off leash dog exercise area would benefit dogs, dog owners, people who enjoy dogs and people who dislike dogs. It benefits every park user in town by reducing the number of illegal off-leash dogs in other parks. We do not seek this area because we have inadequate

HILLARY CLINTON TOMB RAIDER



BOGON HERALD/HIPERT

D'Agostino has taken band to new heights

A few days after I graduated from Arlington High School in June 2001, band director Tino D'Agostino, who I referred to as "Mr. D" in my years as a band member (I still do), told me his approach to directing the jazz band.

"I want to make sure that my students are enjoying every single minute of this wonderful school experience," he said.

The benefits of this approach are now showing more than ever.

As the 1999-2000 school year approached at AHS, the jazz band was struggling for respect. Mr. D was hired to take over the reins, and since then, the group has become one of three audition-only groups at AHS — the others are the honors string orchestra and the madrigal singers — and a fan favorite at school concerts.

In June, Mr. D coordinated the first ever AHS Jazz Night, dubbed "Bejazzled," in which the jazz band performed on its own, then with Mr. D's own band, "Spazzzy."

In short, the jazz band has come a long way since 1999. Matt Pooley knows. A Bates College junior double majoring in music composition and religion, Pooley graduated from AHS in 2001. He and I shared a music stand when we both played the alto saxophone in the jazz band.

"Mr. D'Agostino has the ideal attitude both towards teaching and music," said Matt. "I found that the foundation of

Guest Columnist

DAVE SANTINO

everything going on in and out of the classroom for him was respect. As a teacher, a fellow musician, and a friend to all of his students, he broke down the mold of your typical, pedagogical teacher-to-student relationship by instilling the deep value of respect, fellowship and musicianship among his students."

Since Matt graduated from high school, he and some Bates friends have formed a rock band, "Sort," which has recorded a full-length studio CD titled, "The Loud Room." He is also working with the FleetBoston Celebrity Series this summer.

"I think the best part about Mr. D is his passion for and love of music," said Matt, "something which was not truly sparked within myself until I met Mr. D and learned from him in and out of the classroom. Whether we were playing in the full orchestra or the jazz band, no matter what style of music, Mr. D always managed to find the life and expression behind whatever piece we were playing."

Dede Booth, a former jazz band drummer, graduated one year before Matt, and was only a student of Mr. D for a year, but

knows him just as well (Matt wouldn't argue).

"Mr. D is one of the most dedicated people and teachers I know," said Dede. "He respects everyone's thoughts and musical ideas, and uses all of his time and energy devoted to his students."

Dede is now a junior at Northeastern University, studying music industry and creative writing, and plays in bands that perform jazz, rock, folk, and funk selections. She believes Mr. D fueled her interest in music.

"He is a role model to the students and has inspired me so much throughout the years," said Dede. "I credit him as the reason why I'm still a musician to this day."

My brother, Greg Santino, president of the AHS class of 2003, credited Mr. D in his graduation speech, calling him a "very special gentleman."

"He encouraged us all to succeed," said Greg, who will attend Merrimack College this fall as a civil engineering major. "As a result, we left with great knowledge of music. We also had a fun time in class. Mr. D always had a joke for everything. If, for example, we could not come to class he would say, 'I was going to ask you not to come anyway!' I really enjoyed myself in that class."

It is evident that the jazz band is no longer that group struggling for respect, and Mr. D's teaching approach is one of the main reasons. If you get the chance, thank Mr. D for heading a group that consistently makes Arlington proud.

Dave Santino is an Arlington resident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for dog exercise area

I am writing in response to the article "Project may lose poohches, garden" in the July 10 issue of the Arlington Advocate.

I am a member of the Friends of the Canine Companions of Arlington, a group that formed last year with the purpose of creating a controlled "off leash" recreation area, allowing dogs, their owners and other visitors to share the parks in an environment which is safe, clean and enjoyable for all.

We are very concerned about the possible elimination of the dog exercise area from McClellan Field. Many people see this as a frivolous project, feeling that setting aside public space for dogs is not and should not be a town priority. I don't disagree.

However, this issue is not just about dogs. An off leash dog exercise area would benefit dogs, dog owners, people who enjoy dogs and people who dislike dogs. It benefits every park user in town by reducing the number of illegal off-leash dogs in other parks. We do not seek this area because we have inadequate

space in our homes to exercise our dogs. This area will help build a sense of community by designating a place where dog owners and others can come together socially. We hope to use the park for educational programs, such as dog training and seminars as well.

The Lexington resident mentioned in your article, Mr. Lelyveld, has several objections to the dog exercise area being located at McClellan Field. All the objections raised by Mr. Lelyveld were addressed in the FOCCA proposal to the town of Arlington. His objections were noise, which there will be from baseball and soccer games, not only from the dogs. We purposefully asked for the dog area to be closer to the street side of the park and the parking area so as to reduce noise to neighbors and dog traffic through the park. As for his objection to people not picking up after their dogs while in the park, that is simply absurd. Who would use the park if no one cleaned it? One of the rules of the park will be that visitors must pick up after their pet, or be banned. He was also concerned with overuse, because there are no other dog parks in the area. We would require that dogs be licensed by the

town, reducing the number of non-Arlington dogs using the area.

As for the parking issue, that is an issue for the park as a whole, and we believe dog owners will be the group most likely to walk to the park as opposed to families arriving for organized sports.

We also feel it is unfair that the dog exercise area be the first item removed from the park plans if there is a lack of funds, given that it will serve a larger population than other features of the park, such as the skate park. Also, when we approached the town, we asked only for land to be set aside, not for any public money. We are more than willing to raise private funds, and hope the town will allow us to do so.

Liz Lynch
Friends of the Canine Companions

Should retiring employees be consultants?

Here we go again. Our town government is wasting the taxpayers money.

First example occurred several years ago, when Town

Manager Donald Marquis retired after many, many years of service. The town hired him back as a consultant, for a fee, to complete unfinished business.

Second example is in process now. The town is contemplating hiring Alan McClellan Jr. as a consultant, for a fee. (As I am sure you know, Mr. McClellan just retired after 19 years as Planning Director.) A call to the town manager's office revealed that it is common practice to hire the retired person as a consultant, for a fee, to complete unfinished business.

In both of these cases, the retirees knew for some time when they were going to retire. They had enough of time to finish their business and/or to train their replacements to finish the job.

It is about time that our town start to practice some frugality with our money and eliminate this "tradition." After all, we are laying off numerous teachers and town workers because of the financial crisis that exists in the town. Let's not make the situation worse.

Joseph C. Baran
Brookdale Road

■ SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

The Arlington Advocate

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